

YOUR WEEK IN CHINA'S CAPITAL

今日
北京

BEIJING TODAY

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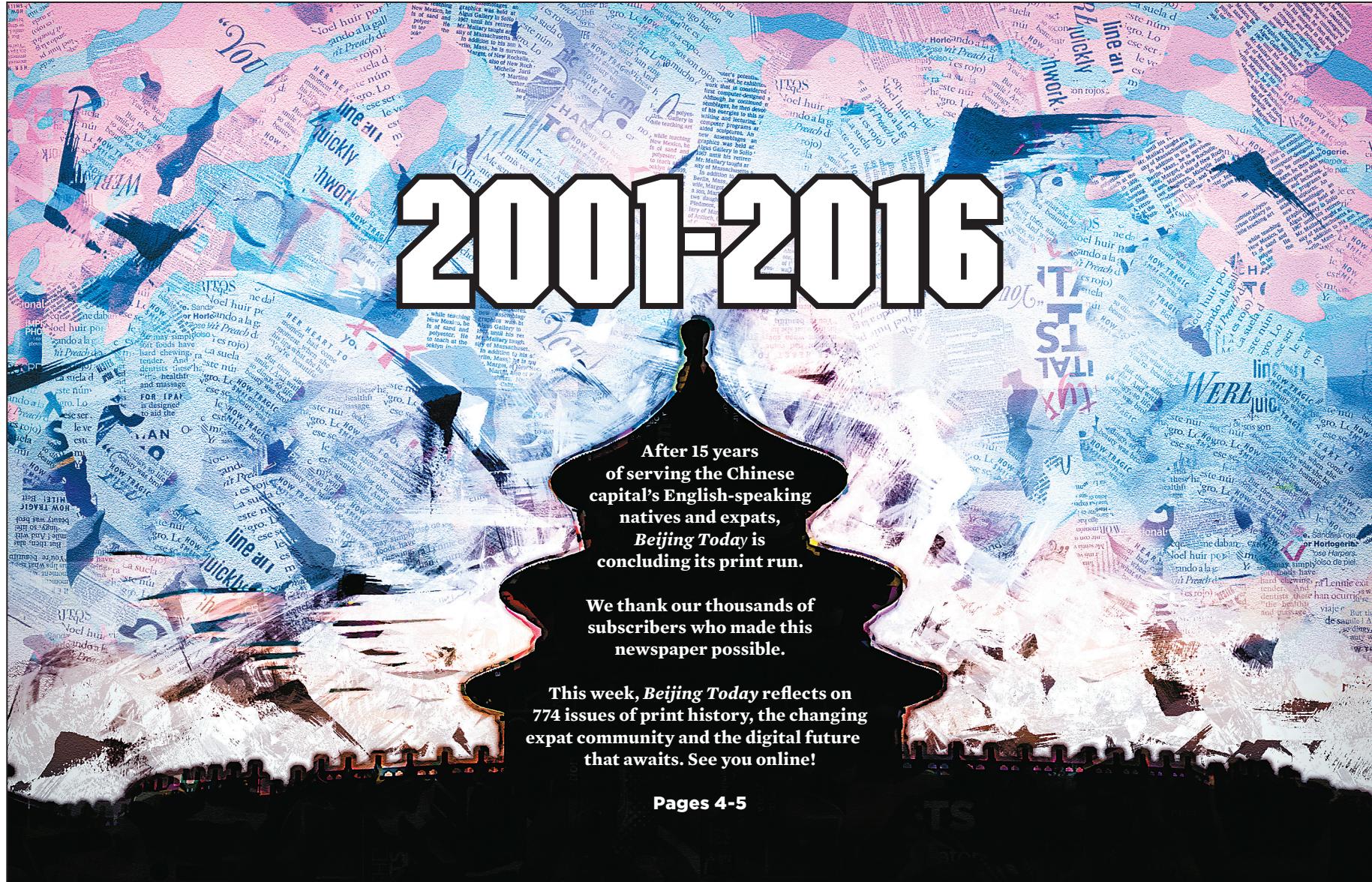
2001-2016

After 15 years
of serving the Chinese
capital's English-speaking
natives and expats,
Beijing Today is
concluding its print run.

We thank our thousands of
subscribers who made this
newspaper possible.

This week, *Beijing Today* reflects on
774 issues of print history, the changing
expat community and the digital future
that awaits. See you online!

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Xicheng Dama Bust Professional Book Thieves

BY KARENA HU

Everyone knows one of the Xicheng Dama, even if they think they don't. The so-called "old ladies from Xicheng District" are a public safety volunteer organization that assists the police. More than 70 percent of the members are Beijing women between the ages of 58 to 65 in Xicheng District.

Last year, the Xicheng Dama reported 72 cases of suspected terrorist activities to the police. But now they are more focusing on smaller crimes.

In early March, the Xicheng Dama told Beijing police they had identified

two men with baggy clothes who were going in and out of a hostel with a serious expression. Using facial recognition software, police matched the men to two thieves with a history of book heists. Police said the men were suspected of targeting the Xidan Xinhua Bookstore, Beijing's biggest bookstore and the flagship of the Xinhua Bookstore chain.

Police monitored the men for 10 hours and eventually caught them with stolen books in their possession.

The men reportedly confessed soon after their arrest. Police said they found

more than 200 stolen books in the hostel worth a combined 16,000 yuan.

Beijing police said the men smuggled the books past the electronic detectors by using a homemade degaussing tool to void each book's electronic tag. They then tied the books to their bodies before walking out.

"Our group will continuously support Beijing police to protect the capital's safety," says Zhang, a member from Xicheng Dama who participated in the group's anti-terrorism training session in January. ■

(Karena Hu is an intern at *Beijing Today*.)

CHINESE STOCK INDEXES

SSE (Shanghai)

Close	Change	YTD
3,008.42	▼ 42.17 (1.38%)	-15%

SZSE (Shenzhen)

Close	Change	YTD
10,504.88	▼ 178.98 (1.68%)	-17.06%

HSI (Hong Kong)

Close	Change	YTD
20,266.05	▲ 59.38 (0.29%)	-7.52%

Accurate to market close on April 7, 2016



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Photo by Sina Weibo

College Students CrowdFund Haidian Restaurant

BY DIAO DIAO

Students from China Agricultural University, Beijing Forestry University, Beijing Language and Culture University, University of Science and Technology Beijing, China University of Geosciences, China University of Mining and Technology and other schools near Xuyuan Lu joined up to solicit some 2 million yuan in crowdfunding for support Houhui You Qi, their new restaurant in the area.

The government has long encouraged graduates to bootstrap their own businesses rather than compete in the stagnant job market, but it's rare to see

students open a restaurant with such a large investment.

With a floor area about equal to five Beijing apartments, Houhui You Qi is divided into two sections with wood tables and chairs. Popular Japanese comics and toys are available on the shelves, and a map showing the location of the restaurant on the wall bears their slogan: "We handle all parties near Xuyuan Lu."

The business is clearly focused on the student dining market.

Beijing Youth Daily interviewed two of the founders: Xiaopan from China Agri-

cultural University and Xiaoying from Beijing Forestry University.

Xiaopan told reporters that they mainly serve Chinese dishes, but that their selling point is creativity. Fried mushrooms are called "Tiny Mushrooms Explode" and sell for 36 yuan per portion. They use honey syrup as one of the ingredients in their soup. Pumpkin with ribs is called "Mistress in the Villa" and sells for 48 yuan.

The restaurant's 40 morning orders bring in more than 10,000 yuan. The dining rush hours starts at 5 pm.

Xiaopan and Xiaoying said it was hard to raise the money for the restaurant.

At first, they opened a public account on WeChat and forwarded advertisements from their personal accounts. But they found that students were cautious about investing even though their slogan was, "Invest 1,000 yuan and own your restaurant."

"It took more than two hours to explain our idea and business plan when each potential investor came," Xiaopan said. "Finally, we won the support of an instructor in charge of college students' innovation."

They downloaded all the necessary forms and made a detailed business plan. The teacher read the plan and helped them to arrange a promotional tour.

Xiaopan, Xiaoying and the other founders prepared by developing the operation model, crowdfunding plan, stockholders' interests and supervising system. They delivered a presentation in a classroom to more than 100 students.

The presentation attracted more than 20 student investors and students from other universities far from Xuyuan Lu.

Xiaopan said that most students joined them because of their enthusiasm, and that their project inspired other students to take their own risks.

The group made presentation at all the universities by Xuyuan Lu. From November to December last year, they received more than 1 million yuan. After three months' crowdfunding, they finally amassed 2 million yuan.

Although operating the restaurant has caused the founders to miss class, Xiaopan and Xiaoying said they have yet to fall behind in their lessons. ■

Family Planning Commission Releases New Rules for Birth, Vacations

BY DIAO DIAO

The Beijing Municipal Commission of Health and Family Planning is no longer issuing paper certificates of birth from March 29. In its place, Beijing hukou holders who are planning to have a child can obtain a birth registration service sheet.

Couples who want to apply must supply their residence books, ID cards and marriage certificates to the local committee office to register. Online registration is available at syz.bjchfp.gov.cn. Birth registration service sheets will be issued three days after registration.

The notice also mentions registration for student couples at university and migrant residents.

Couples who want a third child must



CFP Photos

submit a re-birth application form that can be obtained from the residence committee office or online. The Beijing Municipal Commission of Health and Family Planning will give a reply in 20 working

days. Divorced and remarried couples must comply with the re-birth regulation to apply for a third or more children.

The new regulation also changes the city's marriage vacation policy.

The late marriage vacation has become an extra seven-day vacation. The standard marriage vacation period is seven days.

Female workers who give birth will be given a 30-days birth vacation and their spouse a 15-day vacation to accompany them.

In state owned companies and government departments, birth vacation for female workers can be extended to three months with the work unit's permission. ■

Subways Implements New Rules on Baggage, Suicide

BY DIAO DIAO



Several Beijing subway stations have become the testing ground for new rules approved by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress in November.

Among the main changes are new restrictions on the size of passengers' bags and a new way of handling emergencies. In addition, passengers who refuse to comply with routine security check will now be detained and handed over to the police.

Previous rules allowed passengers to buy a second ticket when bringing along items equivalent in size to passenger's space, fragile packages, and unusually heavy items such as folding bicycles. The broad categories caused frequent conflicts between subway staff and passengers carrying large loads.

The Dahongmen, Jiayomen and Shiliuzhuang stations on Line 4 had their own limits, blocking any bags larger than 0.25 square meters. The stations' proximity to the Dahongmen wholesale market led to many passengers boarding with extremely large bags.

New rules standardize the length, width, height and weight of luggage. Bags may not exceed a length of 1.8 meters, a width and height of 0.5 meters and a weight of 30 kilograms. Items that may affect passengers' safety and underground traffic are prohibited from being carried on the subway.

Coordinators at some trial stations said the rules are flexible as subway staff must judge luggage suitability by eye.

Subway operators have also implemented a new system to deal with the rising number of suicides. Lines 1 and 2, which lack safety doors, have been especially popular destinations for people seeking to end their lives.

Zhu Yajun, chief officer of Qianmen Station on Line 2, said the subway has added more security cameras at the end of the train and at the start of the tunnel where most people choose to jump. It is also assigning more volunteers to the platforms to catch any suspected jumpers.

Zhu said witnessing suicides has a profound effect on the mental state of subway workers. Subway management is providing training to subway officers and drivers about the psychology of suicide, how to provide first aid to rescued people and how to evacuate other passengers. ■



Photo by houqin.ca.edu.cn

City Moves to Standardize Strange Certificates of Residents' Committees

BY DIAO DIAO

The municipal government has announced it will standardize and simplify the number of certificates issued by Beijing's local residents' committees.

Life actions such as applying for social insurance, purchasing an apartment, getting a job, enrolling in school, raising a pet and retiring all require documentation from the local residents' community.

The organizations were formed in 1954

in the first National People's Congress to act as a relatively unmanaged bridge between citizens and the government. Committees hold power over the economic, cultural and social affairs of all Chinese residents, but they have never been instructed about what documents they must issue and in what format.

The result has been residents tasked with obtaining asinine certificates such as "Certificate of Proof You Are Still Alive,"

"Certificate of Proof Your Mother is Your Mother," and "Certificate of Proof Ensuring One's Lost Phone is Lost."

Many residents have complained about the committees' penchant for forcing them to go back and forth between countless departments as each denies responsibility for issuing a certificate.

The Examination and Revolution Office of the Beijing Municipal government investigated 21 residents' committees in Beijing and found that they were issuing more than 240 kinds of certificates. These could be roughly divided into certificates related to residence, identity, relationship, death, income and property, family poverty, employment, criminal records, personal property damage and more.

Each community's committee has decided what documents it will issue, and it's not unusual to find multiple committees in the same district that offer and deny completely different services.

Most committees issue certificates to confirm residence, birth permission, primary school enrollment and old age.

The Examination and Revolution Office said half of the certificates were required by Communist Party agencies in companies, and the rest were required by other organizations or private enterprises.

"The huge number of certificates and complicated procedures are troublesome to both the applicants and the residents' committees. Their isolation and unwillingness to share between departments may be the root of the problem," the office said in its report.

The municipal government said it plans to standardize available certificates and create a central database to be shared by residents' committees. Departments will be assigned to collect some of the materials instead of putting all the work on the certificate's applicant, it said. ■

THE WEEK IN WEIRD

STRANGE HAPPENINGS ON THE CHINESE NEWS WIRE
BY SU DERUI

Egypt's Protests Bring Down Sphinx of Shijiazhuang

The notorious Great Sphinx of Shijiazhuang is no more, thanks to protests from the Egyptian government. Created by Hebei Great Wall Studios, the Sphinx was demolished on April 2 after UNESCO processed the Egyptian government's formal complaint.

The full-scale Sphinx was constructed for a movie shoot and intended for temporary use, a spokesperson for the studio said. It was not intended as a tourist attraction.

While Hebei's Sphinx may have fallen, interest parties can find other *shanzhai* Sphinxes at Beijing World Park, Shenzhen Windows of the World and Shenzhen's Splendid China. A fifth Sphinx used to exist in Guangzhou Grand World Scenic Park, which closed in 2009.

Hebei's Sphinx was the only one built to the same scale as the original in Egypt.

(ThePaper.cn)

Tuhao Flies 6,000 Employees to Korea for Chicken, Beer

While there is no question of Chinese *tuhao*'s spending ability, there are many questions about their senses of fashion and timing.

Guangzhou Aolan International Beauty Group broke the bank to send its 6,000 employees to South Korea using 150 planes departing from 24 Chinese cities to realize the grand dream of having beer and fried chicken.

The only problem is that food trend, inspired by 2013's *My Love from the Star*, ended at least two years ago.

During the trip, the employees occupied 1,500 rooms in 26 hotels, commanded 140 tour buses and employed 280 tour guides to show them around the peninsula for seven days.

(ThePaper.cn)

Hunan Drug Dealer Takes 19.6g Heroin to Her Hearing

The courthouse in Xiangtan, Hunan Province was flabbergasted when an accused drug dealer and burglar surnamed Zeng arrived for her hearing with 19.6 grams of heroin and a lighter in her bag.

Officers found the heroin and lighter wrapped together in red plastic during a security check. Zeng initially attempted to seize the bag and pass it to her husband. Court officers detained the pair for questioning.

Zeng told police that the large block of resin was heroin, and she and her husband Zhang were detained.

(ThePaper.cn)

iPhone 6 Legs the Latest Unattainable Beauty Standard

Chinese social media is never short on inspiration. In the last year, waif-like women have created the "bellybutton test" and the "A4 waist," which tasks women with hiding their waists behind a single vertical sheet of A4 paper.

Atrophied legs are the newest trend, as women attempt to hide their thighs behind a 13.8-centimeter iPhone 6.

Hangzhou's City Express is credited with catapulting the trend into the mainstream by running a pictorial of six female netizens showing off how they pass the test.

(Ifeng.com)

Unlicensed Restaurants Making a Comeback on Eleme

BY KARENA HU

never operated with a business license.

The fried chicken shop is not alone – at another unlicensed bistro named Xianghe Meat Pie in Fengtai District, the owner was spotted handling meat immediately after taking money from a customer.

"We have more than 500,000 restaurants on our platform and the number is still climbing. There are a lot of regulations involved in getting a license, and we are trying our best to avoid harshly dealing with these businesses," a spokesperson for Eleme says.

"If a customer spots an unlicensed restaurant on Eleme, he or she has can call our cus-

tomer service line or report the shop through the Eleme app," says Zhao Zhuo, director of Eleme's public relations department.

In addition to food safety issues, Eleme has also failed to verify the addresses and photos of its promoted restaurants. According to the report, a barbecue shop allegedly on Guangqu Lu in Chaoyang District was found to be using a fictitious address.

"We will work closely with supervision authorities to take steps in fixing the licensing problem," Zhao says. He would not comment on how Eleme plans to start providing valid restaurant information to its customers. ■

Tariff Changes Begin this Month

BY KARENA HU

the excess.

Baby products, foods and dietary supplements are expected to be heavily affected by the policy change. However, the new policy might be good news for perfume lovers since the imported perfume tax rate is being slashed to 20 percent for quantities costing 1,000 or less.

"Many big online retailers who deal in imported products are waiting to see what happens, but price hikes are inevitable," a

retail director who would not be named told The Paper.cn.

Electronics seller Suning said that based on commodity features, their delivery and operation system may be adjusted to deal with the effects of the new policy.

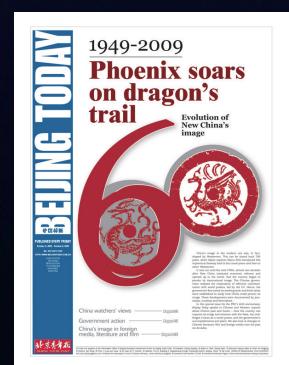
Tariff rates on beauty products and electronics may also be affected. Customs officials said they would publish a list of the exact changes soon. ■

(Karena Hu is an intern at Beijing Today.)

New duty taxes take effect today, according to a paper released by the General Administration of Customs. For people whose businesses depend on overseas purchases, the increased tariffs threaten to increase the prices of many popular commodities.

The current exemption is being raised from 1,000 to 2,000 yuan. But all products whose total value exceeds 2,000 yuan will face a tariff on the full price rather than

Zaijia





BY JACK WANG & SU DERUI

It's with sadness that we at *Beijing Today* say goodbye. For the last 774 weeks, our reporters have chronicled life in the Chinese capital and across the country, and it has been an honor to serve the city's English-speaking community.

Beijing Today's final print issue arrives just one month shy of the 15th anniversary of its founding on May 11, 2001.

The world was a very different place with very different needs 15 years ago, and nowhere is that more obvious than in our rapidly evolving city. At the founding of *Beijing Today*, Internet access in China remained scarce and expensive, smartphones did not exist and personal computers and laptops were seen as more of a luxury than an essential daily tool.

Like so many media ventures, we were created with an audacious goal: to spring off from Beijing's pre-Olympic boom and beat *China Daily* in five years. That did not happen. But *Beijing Today* did manage to carve out a niche for itself in the capital's media landscape.

In the years before bloggers and foreign media took an intense interest in the Chinese capital, *Beijing Today* was the lone English voice serving the local community with stories neglected by its more politically oriented competitors.

Our paper was on the ground during the SARS crisis of 2003, during Beijing's Olympic transformation of 2008 and during the country's spectacular 60th anniversary in 2009. Our coverage also brought a local connection to national events when devastating earthquakes snuffed out lives across the southwest and post-holiday labor troubles left foreigners wondering whether the magic engine of the Chinese economy had finally run out of fairy dust.

And during those 15 years the city has grown.

Beijing's population has nearly doubled from 13 million people at our first issue to more than 21 million people today, and our East Third Ring Road office is no longer considered "far outside the city center." China's population of long-term foreign residents – many of whom have settled in Beijing – has also grown 35 percent to reach 685,775 in 2010.

But no media is immune to fundamental changes in how humans communicate.

As a community made up primarily of students, young graduates and exchange workers, Beijing's expats experience a continuous churn as 20-year-olds arrive and 40-years-olds depart. And with those departing China hands goes the generation that consumed print media.

Beijing Today began its digital transition in 2009, and by 2013 had deployed an accessible website and joined the social media revolution. Our stories today can be found on Facebook, Twitter, WeChat and other social media. We are proud that our digital edition has won millions of readers from literally all over the world and produced some of the most shared China stories of the last year. That work will continue even as the print edition stops arriving at your doorstep.

We would like to thank our thousands of subscribers for being with us through so many interesting years of change, and invite them to join us as we cut ties with our print past and complete our fully digital transition. ■

Digital editions of *Beijing Today*'s print past will remain available at:

- ISSUU (issuu.com/beijingtoday)
- The Internet Archive (archive.org/@beijing_today)



Photo by CFP

Teachers Eye Online Cram Schools for Salary Bump

BY KARENA HU

Physics cram school tutor Wang Yu has been the focus on online debate over his shockingly high earnings: 18,842 yuan per hour.

Wang works part time on Yuanfudao, an online education app. The high school physics class he teaches costs 9 yuan per lecture. With 2,617 students enrolled and a 20 percent deduction for the platform's fee, his remaining pay is staggeringly high.

Teachers who cover classes relevant to the high school or college entrance exams can make considerable money thanks to national demand. Many are looking to Wang's success as an option for teachers who hope to boost their stagnant salaries.

A New Platform

China's online education system began to take shape in 2013, when New Oriental Education opened Koolearn and moved part of its business to the Web.

In a relatively short time, online education took off, learning from the problems encountered in earlier online-to-offline businesses. The first round of online education platforms included Crazy Teachers, Genshuixue and Changingedu.

King of Science, a separate studio from Crazy Teachers, opened in 2015. Wang Xingjun, the studio's founder, graduated from Tongji University, one of China's top schools. Wang began his tutoring career in college, but became disillusioned by the low salaries offered by education companies.

"They took 75 percent of the money as their agency 'commission,'" Wang told Paper.cn.

Driven by his dissatisfaction, Wang established his own online studio to help students in their studies. Instead of taking a high commission, Wang passed all the class fees back to teachers to attract more to participate. He and his colleagues flew to different cities to attend academic seminars and meet potential tutors.

Wang's platform also added a referral system that awarded students and teachers who brought in new users. The initial bounty for a new user was 400 yuan.

"Working for education companies left me feeling like a machine. But running your own education channel makes you feel more like a teacher. It makes you want to give students your best," Wang says.

Wang says the lowest monthly salary

for an online teacher on his platform is 50,000 yuan.

Jin, an English teacher in Nanjing who has been teaching online for two months, confirmed that she had earned 50,000 yuan in each of the last two months. She has also been a supporter of the new education pattern.

"Online education gets around the limits of location, rent and class size. The platforms take a standard commission of 20 percent, and the teachers have more free time to prepare slides and class material. All you need is a computer with camera. Class can start anywhere: in a dorm, at home or in the lab – as long as you have a good Internet connection," Jin says.

Cram vs Public

With lecture priced 10 yuan each, online education is an attractive alternative to traditional cram schools. But critics question how well students can engage with a teacher who exists only on a webcam.

"To avoid losing the students' attention, teachers have to offer a barrage of important learning points to make sure everyone is listening – even the students with bad scores," says Wang

Yu, in an interview with Paper.cn. Newcomers to online teaching might find it three times harder than their normal work, he warns.

"You also have to be alert to the torrent of student questions that come in through the discussion zone," Wang says.

As for the earnings, Wang says it all depends on personal ability. While there are many reports about high-earning teachers, there are also some who earn less than 10 yuan per hour.

Popular online cram schools are also attracting unwanted attention from the Ministry of Education. Many parents with children enrolled in public school fear teachers may neglect their lessons to focus on earning money online.

"I think it's right that public school teachers should not be teaching online cram classes. The reason is simple – teachers whose attention is outside of class will severely jeopardize public school students' right to an education. Teachers should choose to be either a public school teacher or an online teacher," says Yu Minhong, CEO of New Oriental Education.

But some defend online cram schools as path to more equitable education.

"I've had almost 100 physics classes with Wang Yu. The school I attend now doesn't have many good teachers," says Hu Sicheng, a 12th grade student in Chaozhou, Guangdong province.

Unclear Path

"Online cram schools are a new technology. We don't have any regulations as to which teachers can participate and how it may affect the normal education process," says a spokesperson for the Ministry of Education who would not be named. "Whether or not we decide to ban it depends on further discussion."

Cram schools are common throughout East Asia.

In Hong Kong, the top cram school teachers can earn as much as pop stars. South Korea has a similar online cram school platform called Megastudy, but it depends on pre-recorded classes.

Procuratorate Daily called the emergence of online cram schools "a wake-up call to public schools that tell their students to learn it on their own." The newspaper advised public schools to open online classes to supplement classroom lessons and prevent students from being sucked into the world of cram school education.

In Shanghai, many public schools offer free online education to students to increase the schools' competitive ability.

"In the near future, public schools will adopt more third-party services to send their classes to students," says Chen Xiang Dong, CEO of online education platform Genshuixue. Several teachers said public school is unlikely to be influenced by online cramming.

"It takes a higher teaching ability to work as an online cram tutor, and not all teacher are suitable. Public schools can keep teachers more absorbed in their work," says Wen, a public school teacher in Hebei province. He said the high profit offered by online cram classes is unlikely to woo public school teachers away from their jobs.

"There is a limit to the number of teachers who can make a fortune on this," says Chen Xiangdong, founder of the online education platform Genshuixue. "Not everyone can be a star teacher." ■

(Karena Hu is an intern at Beijing Today.)

Denmark Opens New Visa Centers in Five Chinese Cities

BY YANG XIN

The Danish Visa Application Center in Hangzhou opened on April 1, the Royal Danish Embassy in Beijing said on April 1.

A visa center in Shenyang will open on April 8, and centers in Chengdu, Jinan and Nanjing will open April 15.

The five centers, together with the four existing locations in Beijing, Chongqing, Guangzhou and Shanghai, are part of Denmark's effort to capture a segment of the growing Chinese travel market.

Applications for both short-term visas and long-term residence permits can be handled by any of the centers. The visa procedure takes approximately 5 to 11 working days.

"I am very pleased to see these new Visa Centers open their doors in the five provinces, which together have a population of 357 million," said A. Carsten Damsgaard, Danish Ambassador to China.

"Travel to Denmark, Greenland and the Faroe Islands is increasingly attractive for Chinese who want a different sightseeing experience. These centers mark our step forward to enhancing what Denmark has to offer," Damsgaard said.

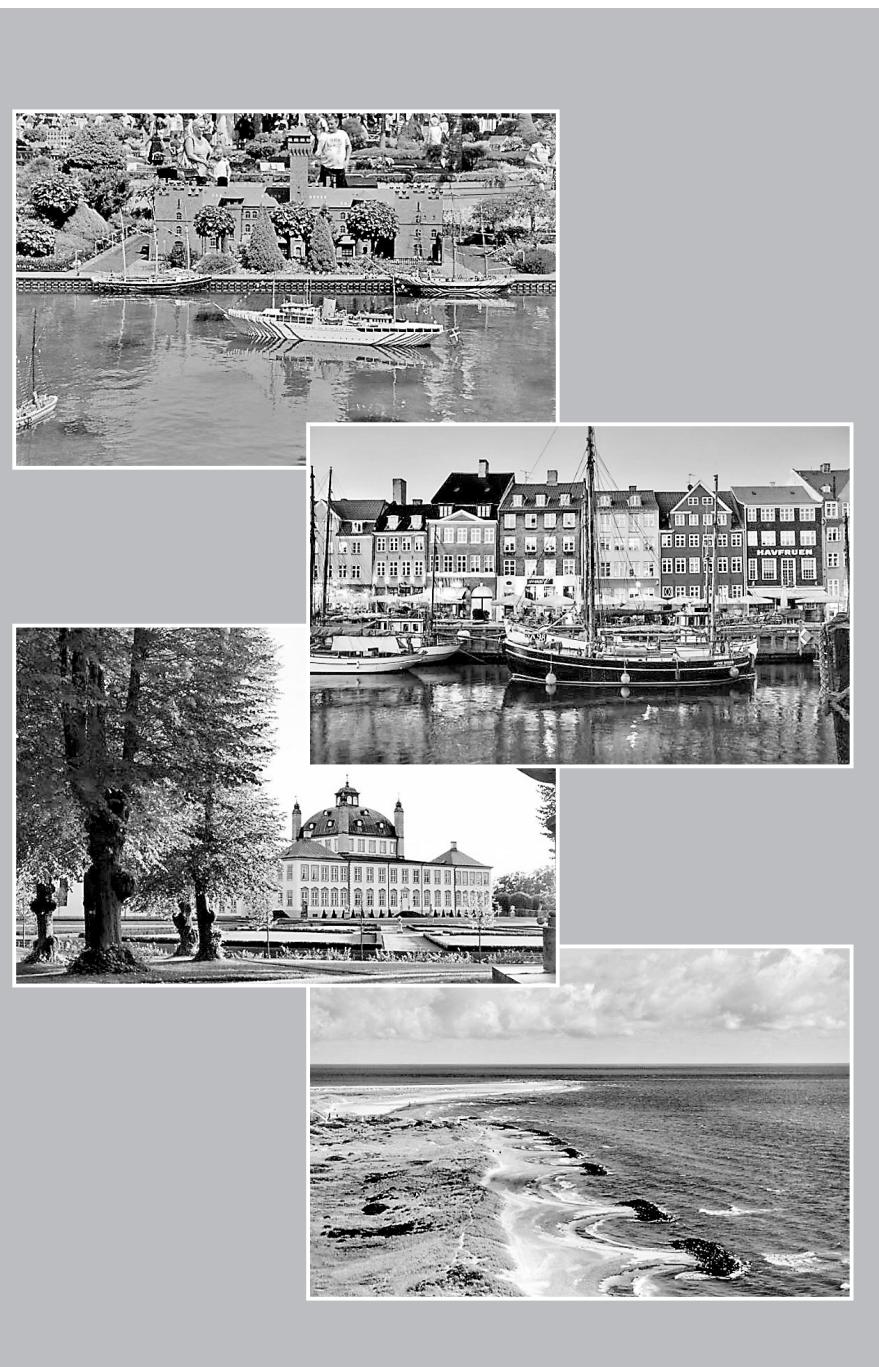
Collection of biometric data is performed at the centers in accordance with the implementation of the Visa Information System (VIS). Fingerprint scans, once stored in the system, can be re-used for further visa applications over a five-year period.

Denmark was one of the first EU countries to open visa centers in China in 2010. The country has seen a great increase in the number of Chinese travelers ever since.

In 2015, 28,000 visas were issued to Chinese travelers, an increase of nearly 20 percent, or 5,300 visas, from the previous year.

Denmark is also representing Iceland in Hangzhou and Nanjing. It will therefore be possible to hand in applications for short-term visas to Iceland at the visa centers in these two cities. Applicants can also apply for an Icelandic visa at the Danish Visa Application Centers in Guangzhou and Shanghai.

Denmark enjoys a good reputation among Chinese tourists, many of whom hope to experience its happy lifestyle, cutting-edge design and Little Mermaid statue. ■



2016 Croisements Festival to Kick Off in China

BY YANG XIN

The 2016 Festival Croisements organized by the French Embassy in China begins at the end of April. The multidisciplinary performances and exhibitions have become a yearly doorway for cultural exchange between China and France since 2006, when the Années Croisees France-China Festival ended.

This year's Croisements will highlight creative youth in the world of French music, visual arts and drama and promote the exploration of unknown territories and hybrid art forms.

Chinese classic music lovers can look forward to welcoming the young French soprano Sabine Devielhe, who was named Victory of the Lyric artist last year.

Directed by Oliver Py, a giant of French theatre, the musical play *The Girl, the Devil and the Windmill* will introduce a story of beauty, hope and fidelity, as well as violence, danger and loneliness based

on a Brothers Grimm fairy tale.

Another musical play, *Closing of Love*, will be presented by Beijing's Penghao Theatre. Written by Pascal Rambert, the director of the T2G theatre in Gennevilliers for the 2011 Avignon Festival, the play will be adapted to a Chinese version by Pascal himself, taking an everyday domestic dispute and transforming it into a cruel, jaw-dropping spectacle.

In terms of theatre art, UniFrance and the French Embassy in China have decided to organize the 13th Panorama of French Cinema in several cities for Chinese audience to see the best in contemporary French film. With its selection of long and short films, the Panorama is a unique opportunity for Chinese viewers to discover an eclectic sample of new films reflecting the diversity that make up the "seventh" French art.

The Panorama of French Cinema is



scheduled to be part of the Beijing International Film Festival in April.

Organizers of Croisements have also invited French photographer Oliver Roller to present his Xi'an Photography Project that juxtaposes the buried army in Xi'an with Roman statues.

As for visual art, the exhibition "A Vision of the World" will be featured with a selection of works from the video art collection of French couple Isabelle and Jean-Conrad Lemaitre, which consists of recent videos and films by young artists in 20 countries.

Highlighted by the 2015 Croisements Festival, the literature and activities for

children will continue as a link between the two countries' younger generations.

The author and children's book illustrator Anne Bertier will give a series of workshops for children in six cities. In Beijing, she and Gaja Maffezzoli, a musical performer, will join forces to offer workshops in visual arts and digital music. An exhibition based on her two illustrated books, *Blacks and Whites*, will be held at the Beijing Institut Francais and in other cities.

More details about the cultural events for the 2016 Croisements Festival are available on the website of the French Embassy in China at croisements.faguowenhua.com/. ■

Join Beijing Youth Camp International's Spring Program



Few experiences compare in which finding outdoor fun and new friends in the spring. If you are still searching for a program to participate, Beijing Youth Camp International may be the perfect option.

Beijing Youth Camp International provides an open, practical, environmentally-friendly and easy atmosphere where young people can work together to foster lifestyles and positive attitudes. Established in 2013, the camp is a staple brand among outdoor camps for Beijing teens. By joining the BYCI activities held at the outdoor suburban campsites, young campers can meet peers from other provinces or countries and learn to cooperate.

Beijing Youth Camp International has numerous sites throughout Beijing, including Huxin Camp, Shunyi Camp, Daxing Camp and Mentougou Camp locations. All together

the camps occupy some 6,000 acres of land. The chain expects to grow to 20 camp sites in the next year.

Beijing Youth Camp International is a registered brand under Beijing Youth Daily Group. The program has been supported by the Beijing Municipal Government since its establishment.

In August 2015, China's first lady Peng Liyuan visited Beijing Youth Camp International for its "Love Under the Sunshine" summer camp. Five government officials have visited and experienced the programs provided by the camp. It has also been praised by the Beijing Municipal Commission of Education as well as Beijing Walking Association for its work in promoting outdoor activities to youth.

Beijing Youth Camp International has 10 training programs developed in tandem with Beijing Sport University,

including Outward Bound, Team Games, Military Camps, Media Literacy and Law Lessons. Its lessons with Chinese features are designed to help foreign campers learn more about China. Featured programs include face painting, traditional arts and Chinese calligraphy.

Besides the listed activities, BYCI also has diverse activities that vary by season. Contact its offices for further details if you are interested in joining the camp.

For its spring program, Beijing Youth Camp International is preparing activities related to rebirth. A series of programs about painting, poem appreciation and photography will be highlight of our activities.

Don't hesitate to join one of the capital's most popular youth camps located in the beautiful suburbs. Reservations are available year round. ■

Find Your Fun in Seoul

Seoul, the capital of South Korea and the heart of Asian entertainment, is an ideal destination for a fun spring trip. Join us in March to start your adventure in Seoul. We will set out from Beijing for a five-day tour to Seoul that covers Kwangjang Market, the Bibap Show and the famous Lotte World amusement park.

Lotte World is recognized by Guinness as the world's largest amusement park. The trip includes a two-hour stop at the magical park for lots of fun. More than 100 million tourists have visited Lotte World since its opening in 1989. In the indoor area, visitors can see the many souvenir shops and incredible laser show. For the brave, the exciting rollercoaster and the 70-meter drop are Lotte World's most famous attractions.

Kwangjang Market is a traditional market located in the heart of the capital with more than 100 years of history. Apart from being the top market in Seoul, it is also the largest market in South Korea. Kwangjang is well-known for selling high-quality Korean products at affordable prices. It's easy to find authentic snacks at almost every shop in the market, the most popular of which are Topokki (fried rice cake), Gimbap (Korean seaweed and rice rolls) and Bindaetteok (mung bean crepes). You can also purchase hanbok garments at a reasonable price for



a gift. A set of hanbok usually costs 35,000 won, or about 2,000 yuan.

Another highlight in our Seoul trip is the world-famous Bibap Show, whose ticket is included in the tour fee. Bibap, known as "most delicious show around the globe," is a non-verbal play features the signature Korean dish: Bibimbap. Bibap combines beatboxing, chorus and martial arts to show

the audience how bibimbap is made. In 2010, Bibap went to the Edinburgh International Festival and received positive comments from audience. It has been performed publicly in Seoul since May 2011, and is a must-see show on any visit.

Seoul trips depart in March, April, May, November and December. Contact us early to book your reservation for a five-day tour. ■